

REMARKS

The Examiner's Advisory Action mailed September 24, 2003 has been received and carefully considered. By this Advisory Action, the Examiner has informed the Applicants that the Proposed Amendment After Final Office Action filed August 25, 2003 would not be entered or considered because it (1) raises several new issues that would require further search and consideration; and (2) adds four claims without canceling any finally rejected claims. Moreover, it was noted that the proposed claims cause there to be a lack of antecedent basis from "the wicking member" in claim 55; and a typographical error was made in proposed new claim 64.

By the present amendment, Applicants amend claim 55, as set forth in the Proposed After Final Amendment, to replace the term "wicking member" with "collection strip," in order to correct the aforementioned lack of antecedent basis in claim 55. Newly added claim 64, as also set forth in the Proposed Amendment After Final Office Action, is also herein amended, to replace the term "strop" with the term "strip."

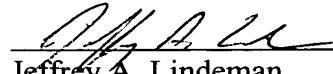
As noted above, Applicants submit concurrently herewith a Request for Continued Examination (RCE). Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the amendments set forth in the earlier filed Proposed Amendment After Final Office Action be entered and considered, and that the application be further amended in accordance with the amendments set forth herein.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that the Application should now be in condition for allowance. However, should the Examiner find some issue to remain unresolved, or should any new issues arise, which could be eliminated through discussions with Applicants' representative, then the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone in order that the further prosecution of this application can thereby be expedited.

In the event that, there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this response, the Office is hereby authorized to charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 19-2380.

Respectfully submitted,
NIXON PEABODY LLP

Date: October 27, 2003



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